Labor Workforce Development NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Christie Administration Connects Workers with Disabilities to Employers Ready to Hire

NORTH BERGEN, N.J., June 28, 2016 – Continuing on the Christie Administration's commitment to helping individuals with disabilities find sustainable employment, the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS) today hosted a targeted hiring event at High Tech High School in North Bergen.

"My department's participation in this targeted job fair demonstrates the type of work my Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services staff performs to help individuals with disabilities to find employment, to get training or to get support services to transition into sustainable jobs," said Commissioner Harold J. Wirths of the state Department of Labor and Workforce Development. "Last year, DVRS placed more than 3,800 individuals with disabilities into competitive, integrated employment with an average wage of nearly \$14 per hour."

The "Schedule A" event was open to people with disabilities and disabled veterans with a 30 percent or more service-connected disability. Schedule A refers to a hiring authority for federally-funded agencies that allows individuals with disabilities to obtain competitive status in civil service. This targeted hiring event is unique in that registrants are pre-screened and matched with positions based on their skills. The department hosts two Schedule A events per year.

Many of the employers participating in the targeted hiring event were government contractors who are required by law to include individuals with disabilities in their workforces. Approximately 25 employers came to the event ready to fill more than 60 positions ranging from border patrol agents to banking specialists to sales manager trainees.

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, which operates within the New Jersey Department of Labor, is the central agency for assisting people with disabilities to connect with employers. Individuals are encouraged to connect with local DVRS offices positioned throughout the state to meet with counselors who will work with them to find, obtain and keep the right job.

Employers and job-seekers interested in learning about the programs and services offered by the state Labor Department's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services can:

- Visit: http://jobs4jersey.com/jobs4jersey/jobseekers/disable/
- Email: dvradmin@dol.nj.gov
- Call: (609) 292-5987 or (609) 292-2919 (TTY)



Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services staff Solomon Okonkwo and Director Alice Hunnicutt kick-off the Schedule A North targeted hiring event at High Tech High School in North Bergen.